

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 SAA-01 /087 W  
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R 260330Z JUL 78  
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 6031

CINCPAC: FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, IR, AF  
SUBJECT: CHAIRMAN TARAKI'S INTERVIEW WITH IRANIAN CORRESPONDENT

REF: TEHRAN 6939 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND  
PRIME MINISTER NOOR MOHAMMAD TARAKI: (A) PUBLICLY  
DENIED IN AN INTERVIEW WITH AN IRANIAN CORRESPONDENT  
THAT THERE IS ANY POLITICAL ORGANIZATION IN THIS  
COUNTRY ASIDE FROM HIS OWN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN (PDPA); (B) CLEARLY IDENTI-  
FIED "ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY" ELEMENTS AS OPPOSED TO  
SOCIALISM; (C) STRONGLY IMPLIED HE IS CONFIDENT OF  
SOVIET SUPPORT SHOULD HIS REGIME BE THREATENED,  
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AND (D) WAS VERY UPBEAT ON AFGHANISTAN'S RELA-  
TIONS WITH ITS TWO MUSLIM NEIGHBORS. THE OVER-  
ALL IMPRESSION TARAKI WAS SEEMINGLY TRYING TO CREATE IS THAT HE  
IS CONCENTRATING ON DOMESTIC MATTERS, AND THERE ARE  
NO GROUNDS FOR ANY IRANIAN AND PAKISTANI CONCERN. TARAKI ALSO  
USED THE TERM "SOCIALISM" FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A PUBLIC  
INTERVIEW. END OF SUMMARY.

2. DOMESTIC POLITICS: IN A RECENT INTERVIEW WITH AN IRANIAN RADIO-TV CORRESPONDENT CARRIED IN THE LOCAL, GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS ON JULY 22, TARAKI REITERATED THE STANDARD DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (DRA) LINE REGARDING THE COMPLETELY AFGHAN NATURE OF THE APRIL REVOLUTION, AND REPEATED THAT THE IDEOLOGY OF HIS REGIME IS REFLECTED IN THE "BASIC GUIDELINES" OF HIS MAY 9 SPEECH. IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUERY, TARAKI EMPHASIZED THAT THE "PARCHAM" (THE RIVAL WING TO HIS "KHALQ" FACTION IS THE PDPA) AND "SHOLAI JAWEID" (A SMALL PRO-CHINESE LEFTIST POLITICAL GROUP) WERE NOT THE NAMES OF POLITICAL PARTIES, BUT MERELY THE TITLES OF PERIODICALS. HE ADDED THAT "THERE WAS AND IS NO PARTY BY THE NAME OF 'PARCHAM' IN AFGHANISTAN", AND INSISTED THAT THERE IS "NO GROUP, CIRCLE OR SOCIETY, OTHER THAN THE PDPA."

3. ASKED TO IDENTIFY ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ELEMENTS, TARAKI RESPONDED "THOSE WHO DEFEND FEUDALISM AND IMPERIALISM, AND (WHO) OPPOSE PEACE, DEMOCRACY, AND SOCIALISM, AND ... WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPERIALIST PLOTS ARE THE REACTIONARY ELEMENTS." IN THE SAME VEIN, TARAKI POINTED OUT THAT THE "REEDUCATION" PROGRAM FOR "STATE CADRES" WILL

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PROCEED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PDPA. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT A NEW "NON-GOVERNMENT" PARTY PUBLICATION WILL APPEAR SOON WHICH WILL BE THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE PDPA.

4. RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION: ASKED WHETHER AFGHANISTAN'S MILITARY COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIETS WILL BE EXPANDED, TARAKI RESPONDED THAT HIS COUNTRY IS "SUFFICIENTLY PREPARED," BUT "IN CASE REACTIONARY AND IMPERIALISTIC PLOTS AGAINST THE 'SAUR REVOLUTION' CALL FOR GREATER STRENGTH OF OUR ARMED FORCES, WE SHALL AVAIL OURSELVES OF ALL POSSIBILITIES."

5. RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND IRAN: TARAKI OFFERED NOTHING NEW ON THE PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE AND REPEATED THE AFGHAN POSITION THAT "A JUST SOLUTION" OF THE QUESTION MAY BE ATTAINED THROUGH "FRIENDLY TALKS" AND A "REALISTIC APPROACH". TARAKI WAS UPBEAT ON HIS RELATIONS WITH IRAN, AND SAID THAT HE EXPECTS THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT NOT ONLY TO CONTINUE ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO HIS COUNTRY, BUT TO "INCREASE IT CONSIDERABLY." ON SPECIFICS, HE EXPRESSED

THE HOPE THAT IRAN WOULD PLAY A LARGE ROLE IN FUL-  
FILLING THE DRA'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN (OSTENSIBLY BEING  
DRAFTED AT THIS TIME WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE), AND  
ADDED THAT HE BELIEVED THAT IMPROVED ECONOMIC CON-  
DITIONS HERE WOULD CAUSE THE THOUSANDS OF AFGHAN  
WORKERS IN IRAN TO RETURN HOME.

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

6. NONALIGNMENT: TARAKI MADE THE USUAL REFERENCES  
TO AFGHAN NONALIGNMENT. HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO  
A QUESTION WHICH CONTAINED A NOTE VERY VEILED RE-  
REFERENCE TO CUBA ("OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD  
FOLLOWING THIS POLICY ALLOW THEMSELVES TO INTER-  
FERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF COUNTRIES NEAR  
AND FAR..."), TARAKI RESPONDED THAT "NO ONE SHOULD  
BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF  
OTHER COUNTRIES."

7. COMMENT: IN ESSENCE, TARAKI'S REMARKS ON RECENT IN-  
TERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS REPRESENT AN ATTEMPT  
TO REWRITE AFGHAN HISTORY, AND COULD SIGNAL THE  
START OF A CAMPAIGN TO MAKE "PARCHAM" AND "SHOLAI-

JAWEID" "NON-ORGANIZATIONS." THE RECENT EXILE OF  
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THE "PARCHAM'S" LEADERS TO VARIOUS AMBASSADORSHIPS  
ABROAD AND THE ONGOING SACKING OF KNOWN LOWER-RANKING  
"PARCHAMISTS" WITHIN THE BUREAUCRACY HAS, IN  
FACT, ELIMINATED, FOR THE MOMENT, THIS GROUP AS  
A POLITICAL FORCE. TARAQI'S ASSERTION THAT THE  
GROUP NEVER EXISTED, HOWEVER, RINGS HOLLOW, AND  
CONCEIVABLY COULD REFLECT HIS CONCERN OVER THE  
CONTINUING DOMESTIC RESISTANCE WHICH HIS NEW  
REGIME IS ENCOUNTERING. LIKEWISE, HIS INSISTENCE  
THAT THE PDPA IS THE ONLY POLITICAL ENTITY IN THE  
COUNTRY COULD REPRESENT PUBLIC WHISTLING IN THE  
DARK, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE MOUNTING REPORTS  
(MOST OF WHICH ARE UNCONFIRMED) OF GROWING DIS-  
CONTENT OVER THE PDPA'S MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S  
AFFAIRS AND THE CREATION OF OPPOSITION GROUPS.

8. TARAQI'S REFERENCE TO SOCIALISM, AND HIS PLACING  
IT IN A VIRTUOUS GROUP WITH DEMOCRACY AND PEACE, IS  
HIS FIRST SUCH PUBLIC REFERENCE SINCE THE APRIL  
REVOLUTION, AND COULD INDICATE THAT THE LEADERSHIP  
HAS DECIDED TO EXPOSE SOME OF ITS POLITICAL CARDS,  
EVEN THOUGH TARAQI, IN THE AFGHAN PRESS VERSIONS  
OF THE INTERVIEW, IS NOT REPORTED AS SPECIFICALLY  
STATING THAT HIS WAS A SOCIALIST REGIME, NOR, IN  
CONTRAST TO THE VERSION CARRIED IN IRAN (REFTEL),  
DID HE SAY THAT HE WAS TRYING TO ENFORCE "SOCIALIST  
PRINCIPLES."

9. TARAQI'S COMMENTS REGARDING MILITARY COOPERATION  
WITH THE SOVIETS CLEARLY IMPLY THAT THE AFGHAN  
LEADER IS VERY CONFIDENT THAT HELP FROM THE  
NORTH WOULD BE READILY AVAILABLE -- ESPECIALLY  
IF THE REGIME FACED SOME SORT OF EXTERNAL THREAT --  
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SHOULD HE FIND IT NECESSARY TO ISSUE A CALL. ON  
THE OTHER HAND, TARAQI'S OTHER REFERENCES TO RELA-  
TIONS WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN STRIKE US AS MORE  
CONCILIATORY THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE IN A NUMBER  
OF HIGH-LEVEL INTERVIEWS TO DATE. THIS COULD  
REFLECT A GENERAL TONE WE HAVE NOTED RECENTLY  
THAT THE LEADERSHIP HAS DETERMINED THAT ITS  
PRIMARY TASK IS TO ESTABLISH ITS SECURITY AND

TO OVERCOME DOMESTIC OPPOSITION, AND THAT,  
THEREFORE, FOREIGN RELATIONS WILL HAVE TO WAIT  
FOR THE TIME BEING. ADDITIONALLY, TARAKI'S UPRIGHT  
TREATMENT OF HIS MUSLIM NEIGHBORS COULD REFLECT  
THE INFLUENCE OF SOVIET ADVICE THAT EXACERBATING  
REGIONAL TENSIONS SERVES NO AFGHAN INTEREST AT  
THIS JUNCTURE, AND WOULD DO LITTLE MORE THAN TO  
CONTRIBUTE TO EXISTING PAKISTANI AND IRANIAN  
NERVOUSNESS OVER THE ULTIMATE COURSE OF EVENTS  
IN THIS COUNTRY.  
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## Message Attributes

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